Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim etc. Other schemes for assistance are also being operated for facilitating food processing industries. Assistance is also available under the National Horticulture Mission to improve the productivity and quality of apples and other fruits. Apple producing States have taken a number of steps to improve the yield of fruits, ensure better quality and value addition. Private investors are also taking up infrastructure like cold storage, grading centers, etc. to improve the marketability of apples.

Financial assistance for Cold Storage

407. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial assistance provided for construction of cold storage to States is only 25 per cent of the cost:

(b) the details of financial assistance released under this scheme, Statewise, during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government will consider providing 100 per cent assistance for cold storage in regions where fruits and vegetables are grown in large quantities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, provides financial assistance in the form of grant in aid upto 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs for Cold Storages for non-horticulture produce and special type of cold storage with controlled atmosphere/ modified atmosphere facility. Besides, Cold storages which are an integal part of processing units or part of common facilities in Food Parks are also assisted. A statement showing details of financial assistance released by the Ministry for Cold Storages under the scheme component-Integrated Cold Chain Facilities, State-wise, during the last three years is enclosed (See below).

(c) Enhanced level of assistance for integrated cold chain scheme is presently being discussed with the Planning Commission for inclusion in the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Statement

Financial assistance released by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, State-wise, under the scheme component—Integrated Cold Chain Facilities, during last three years (2003-04,2004-05 & 2005-06).

SI. No	State	Year-wise i financial assistance released under the scheme (Rs. in lakhs)		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	3.39	3.39
2.	Delhi	—	—	37.50
3.	Gujarat	—	3.40	22.075
4.	Haryana	—	14.345	—
5.	Maharashtra	—	—	75.00
6.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	4.527
	TOTAL:	—	21.135	142.492

Setting up of Food Processing Labs

408. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up food processing labs in various locations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) A number of food testing laboratories are functioning in Public and Private sector in the country. Ministry of Food Processing Industreis (MFPI) does not setup food testing laboratories on its own. However, MFPI provides financial assistance for setting up/upgradation of food testing laboratories, and it has approved financial assistance to 36 organizations, under its Plan Scheme. A statement indicating State-wise number of food testing laboratories assisted by MFPI is enclosed (See below). The laboratory